

DENNIS A. CARDOZA
18TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CONSERVATION, CREDIT, ENERGY AND RESEARCH

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0518

May 14, 2009

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Honorable James L. Oberstar
Chairman
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable John L. Mica
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Oberstar and Ranking Member Mica:

As you prepare the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization bill, I respectfully request that you take into consideration the following high-priority projects that are critical to building a robust transportation system, creating good-paying jobs, and spurring economic development in my congressional district and throughout the Central Valley. I also ask that you take into consideration the devastation that has occurred in my district as a result of the economic crisis. My district has the highest rates of home foreclosure and declines in home equity value in the country. We are also facing skyrocketing unemployment numbers; the three biggest cities in my district face unemployment rates more than 175% of the national average. Long after the foreclosure crisis has come and gone, the Central Valley will cope with the aftermath of this economic devastation. Given that the Central Valley already receives far less federal dollars per capita than almost any other region in the country, it is imperative that the hardest-hit areas such as mine receive the federal investments they need to help fix our crumbling and outdated roads and highways, relieve traffic congestion, improve safety, create jobs, stimulate the economy, and improve the quality of life in our communities.

I-5 Widening Project
San Joaquin County, CA

Summary: Funds will be used to construct auxiliary lanes in the north-and south-bound directions on I-5 between the March Avenue and Benjamin Holt Interchanges, including pavement widening, retaining walls, drainage system, and widening of two bridges. Auxiliary lanes at this location will improve operations of the interstate and enhance safety for motorists, as the lanes provide additional room for vehicles to move on and off the facility, which aides in relieving congestion. Without construction of the proposed improvements, existing vehicle hours of delay will increase substantially in the near-term and will result in gridlock conditions over the 20-year design horizon. This project is needed to reduce traffic congestion, and increase mobility and operational efficiency along the I-5 corridor.

Request: \$25,000,000

**State Route 99 Interchange – Service and Mitchell Roads
Ceres, Stanislaus County, CA**

Summary: Funds will be used to complete the design, environmental review, and right-of-way acquisition for a revised and reconstructed interchange at the intersection of Service and Mitchell Roads with California State Route 99 to allow construction of freeway connectors, reconstruction of existing overcrossings, realignment of frontage roads, and environmental mitigation for these improvements. This project will improve safety and mobility through an interchange and corridor with more truck traffic than any other interchange and corridor in the County.

Request: \$20,000,000

**Campus Parkway
Merced County, CA**

Summary: Funds will be used to construct Phase 2 of the Campus Parkway, from Childs Avenue to State Route 140. The Campus Parkway is a regionally significant project. This new expressway will provide access from State Route 99 to the recently established UC Merced. Campus Parkway will provide an alternate route for north-south travel from State Route 99 to northern Merced avoiding existing congested roadways; the flow of traffic will not be impeded by any at-grade railroad crossings. Campus Parkway is the eastern portion of a larger loop expressway being planned around the greater Merced area that will significantly improve the safe and efficient movement of passenger vehicles and freight.

Request: \$25,000,000

**Bellevue Corridor
Merced County, CA**

Summary: Funds will be used to complete environmental, planning, design, engineering, right of way acquisition, and construction of a major arterial beltway system from CA Highway 59 to Lake Road/Bellevue Road Corridor in Merced County. The Bellevue Corridor will provide direct access to the UC Merced campus and serve major commercial, residential, and job-based employment centers. The Corridor is planned to include complete streets with mass transit/alternate transportation features including growth potential for future light rail.

Request: \$25,000,000

**Los Banos Bypass – State Route 152
Los Banos, Merced County, CA**

Summary: Funds will be used to construct Segment I of the Los Banos Bypass – SR 152 in Merced County. Once built, the Los Banos Bypass will serve as a vital transportation corridor between Highway 99, I-5, and the Bay Area. SR 152 currently carries Central Valley farm products to the Port of Oakland and serves as a major commerce and commuter route from the Valley to the South Bay and Monterey Coast. As traffic passes through the City of Los Banos at Pacheco Boulevard, SR 152 becomes a congestion hot spot and traffic safety hazard. The City of Los Banos, the County of Merced, and the Merced County Association of Governments have approved a SR 152 freeway bypass project to solve this transportation bottleneck.

Request: \$25,000,000

State Route 99 Widening and Buhach Interchange

Merced County, CA

Summary: Funds will be used to widen SR 99 to six lanes from PM 17.6 to PM 21.3, replace the Buhach Interchange (designed in the 1950s with exit and entrance ramps from the "fast" lane) with a new interchange nearby, and construct a replacement overhead bridge at Buhach Road in Merced County. This project is a critical element of the SR 99 Business Plan. This segment of SR 99 is a major freight/goods movement route for California. The current four-lane facility and its interchange are deficient and do not meet current design and safety standards.

Request: \$30,000,000

NEW START PROJECT

Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) Corridor Alignment

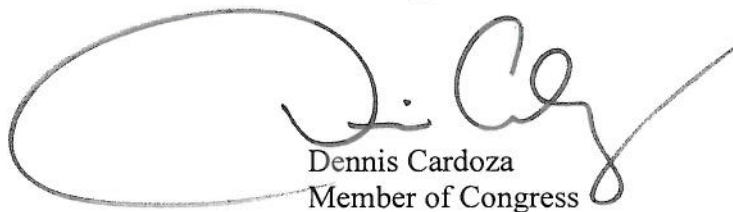
San Joaquin County, CA

Summary: The San Joaquin Rail Commission is requesting authorizing language through the New Starts Process to develop a mixed-use rail and transit corridor between Stockton and San Jose through the Altamont Pass. The corridor will be developed jointly by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission and the CA High Speed Rail Authority. The primary purpose of improving rail service in the Altamont Corridor is to improve travel time for intercity trips between the Bay Area and the northern San Joaquin Valley and to provide greater transit connectivity to support more compact land use planning and development throughout the project area.

Request: \$0. New Starts do not have dollar amounts next to them in the law. (They will compete for a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA)).

I appreciate your consideration of these requests and hope that you will consider the needs of my constituents in this surface transportation reauthorization bill. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Matt Pennington of my staff if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Cardoza", with a large, sweeping loop on the left side.

Dennis Cardoza
Member of Congress